IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel claims 1-5 and 8-12.

Amend claims 6, 7, and 13 as follows:

1-5. (canceled)

6. (currently amended): An expedited method of assembling a software ~~system~~ systems, comprising the following steps:

a) fabricating a collection of software systems, each of which contains

i) a processing module (PROC_MOD) which processes content of messages;

ii) a packaging module (PAK_MOD) which packages messages into packets for transport out of the system;

iii) a communication module (COM_MOD) which accepts and delivers message packets; and

iv) a system control module (CONTROL) which coordinates the processes of (i), (ii), and (iii);

b) during the fabrication of paragraph (a),

i) fabricating identical CONTROL modules in all of the software systems;

ii) fabricating identical COM_MOD modules in all of the software systems; and

iii) fabricating PAK_MOD modules in all of the software systems, such that:

A) copies of a software unit A is contained in every PAK_MOD module;

B) some PAK_MOD modules contain a software unit B with no unit C; and

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C) some PAK_MOD modules contain a software unit C with no unit B; and

c) installing the software systems into respective electronic payment switches.

7. (currently amended): Method according to claim 6, ~~and further comprising the following step~~ wherein step b) includes:

iv) fabricating PROC_MOD modules in all of the software systems such that:

A) copies of a software unit D is contained in every PROC_MOD module;

B) some PROC_MOD modules contain a software unit E with no unit F; and

C) come PROC_MOD modules contain a software unit F with no unit E.

8-12. (canceled)

13. (currently amended): Method according to claim 6, ~~and~~ further comprising:

~~e)~~ d) repeating steps of paragraphs (a) and (b) to thereby modify a one or more of the software ~~system~~ systems previously fabricated~~; and~~

~~d) installing the modified software system into an electronic payment switch.~~

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